Government is aware of the developments in the neighbouring countries and keep under constant review the threat assessment and all developments having a bearing on the country's security with a view to take appropriate measures to safeguard our national security interests.

Army jawans made to work as grave diggers

7255. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report, appearing in the 'Times of India' dated the 23rd April, 1995 about Jawans in Kashmir being used as grave-diggers; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 3rd October, 1994, eight terrorists including six Afghan nationals were killed in an encounter with the security forces. Their bodies were handed over to the State Police authorities for identification. As there were no claimants, the bodies were buried in the presence of village elders and maulvies. At the request of the Police, the Army rendered assistance in the burial as is the practice under such circumstances. There is no information available to suggest that these bodies were later exhumed. In any case, Army jawans were not used for the same. No humiliation has been faced by the Army jawans.

Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur

7256. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the emplolyees of Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, are indulging in proxy business in the names of their kith and kin to acquire the supply orders of various items viz. upholstry etc., since they have easy access to the sensitive defence organisations in Jabalpur;

(b) whether it is a fact that these employees have been working in Jabalpur station for a long time, somehow averting the transfer orders to serve their business interests; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government such as frequent transfers of the employees indulging in such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) No such case has come to notice of the Government.

Transfers of officers and staff belonging to groups A, B and C are made periodically with a view to rotating them among factories. Due action is taken in all instances of malpractice or indiscipline coming to light.

Depletion of defence projects

7257. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a report in weekly magazine 'The Week' of first week of May regarding the depletion of defence projects of Tanks, Warplanes and Long-range Guns; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to keep the defence forces with required equipments, Tanks, Guns and Warplanes and also enough spare parts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Modernisation of Armed Forces, including upgradation of critical weapon systems through refurbishment, technological updation and selective introduction of strategically improved force multipliers, is an ongoing process.